

## Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-07 OES-07  
SOE-02 DODE-00 DOE-15 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 PA-02  
( ISO ) W  
-----109694 301440Z /47

R 271526Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7587  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: MNUC, PARM, SF  
SUB: VISIT OF AMB. SMITH TO SOUTH AFRICA

REF: STATE 155117

1. UNDER HEADLINE QUOTE SOUTH AFRICA SEEKS PLEDGE ON U.S. NUCLEAR PACKAGE UNQUOTE, THE FINANCIAL TIMES FRONT-PAGED TODAY A STORY BY DAVID FISHLOCK, SCIENCE EDITOR, THAT REPORTS SMITH AGENDA IN SOME DETAIL. FULL TEXT FOLLOWS:
2. QUOTE: SOUTH AFRICA HAS ASKED THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FOR FIRM GUARANTEES FOR A CONTROVERSIAL PACKAGE OF UNCLASSIFIED

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NUCLEAR FUEL SERVICES IN EXCHANGE FOR SIGNING THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY.

THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION'S LATEST PROPOSALS WERE TAKEN TO PRETORIA RECENTLY BY MR. GERARD SMITH, A SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL.

THE PACKAGE STIPULATED BY THE SOUTH AFRICANS INCLUDES THE ENRICHMENT OF URANIUM FOR ITS FIRST TWO NUCLEAR

POWER REACTORS - UNDER CONSTRUCTION NEAR CAPE TOWN -  
FURTHER SUPPLIES OF URANIUM FUEL FOR ITS SAFARI  
RESEARCH REACTOR, AND AN ASSURANCE OF WHAT IT CALLS  
"NON-SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGY" FOR ITS NEW URANIUM ENRICH-  
MENT PLANT AT VALINDABA.

IN RETURN, THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAS INDICATED  
ITS WILLINGNESS EITHER TO SIGN THE TREATY OR TO ACCEPT  
"FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS" - WHICH FROM THE STANDPOINT OF  
U.S. NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY MAY BE JUST AS ACCEPTABLE.

FOR THE U.S. THE BIG RISK OF FAILURE TO FIND AN  
ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE IS THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERN-  
MENT MAY BE FORCED INTO AN ACCELERATED PROGRAMME OF  
DEVELOPING ITS OWN URANIUM ENRICHMENT CAPACITY.

THE REWARD OF SUCCESS, HOWEVER, COULD BE THAT OTHER  
NUCLEAR NATIONS SUCH AS INDIA, PAKISTAN, BRAZIL AND  
ARGENTINA, ARE PERSUADED TO SIGN THE TREATY.

THE PACKAGE IS DIPLOMATICALLY MOST SENSITIVE IN THE  
AREA OF FUEL FOR THE SMALL (20 MW OF HEAT) SAFARI  
RESEARCH REACTOR, FOR WHICH THE LAST U.S. DELIVERIES  
WERE AUTHORISED AT THE END OF 1976.

THIS IS NORMALLY OF 93 PER CENT ENRICHMENT - THAT  
IS, OF A LEVEL ASSOCIATED WITH NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES.

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY HAS BEEN INVESTIGATING  
WAYS IN WHICH THE RELATIVELY FEW RESEARCH REACTORS WHICH  
REQUIRE THESE VERY HIGH LEVELS OF ENRICHMENT MIGHT BE  
ADAPTED TO USE LOWER LEVELS.

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THE AIM IS THAT SUCH REACTORS SHOULD USE FUEL NO  
MORE HIGHLY ENRICHED THAN 20 PER CENT, AT WHICH LEVEL,  
IT IS JUDGED, ANY WEAPON FASHIONED FROM THE FUEL WOULD  
BE SO CUMBERSOME AS TO BE DISCOUNTABLE.

IN THE CASE OF SAFARI, HOWEVER, THE U.S. SCIENTISTS  
CAN DO NO BETTER THAN TO PROPOSE A FUEL OF 35-40 PER

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CENT ENRICHMENT.

THIS DISADVANTAGE MAY BE USED BY THE SOUTH AFRICANS TO ADVANCE THEIR CASE FOR TWO OTHER PARTS OF THE PACKAGE, NAMELY GUARANTEED SUPPLIES FOR ENRICHMENT FOR THE KOEBERG POWER REACTORS, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM OVERSEAS FOR SOUTH AFRICA'S OWN URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANT.

THE COMMERCIAL ENRICHMENT PLANT, CONFIRMED IN JANUARY, WILL BE SOUTH AFRICA'S ONLY POSSIBLE MEANS OF FUELING KOEBERG UNLESS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FULFILLS THE ORDER IT HAS ALREADY ACCEPTED FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN ELECTRICITY SUPPLY BOARD.

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SOUTH AFRICA HAS FREQUENTLY PROMISED THAT THIS ENRICHMENT PLANT, WHEN BUILT, WILL BE OPEN TO INTERNATIONAL INSPECTION.

HOWEVER, IT HAS RECENTLY INDICATED TO THE U.S. THAT IT WANTS THE TECHNOLOGY TO BE KEPT SECRET, CITING AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE SPECIAL TREATMENT IT EXPECTS THE CURRENT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN URENCO - THE ANGLO-GERMAN-DUTCH ENRICHMENT COMPANY - AND THE INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY ABOUT THE PRESERVATION OF COMMERCIAL SECRECY UNQUOTE.

3. WITH RESPECT TO REFTEL, WAS THERE A PUBLIC STATEMENT AT CONCLUSION OF SMITH TALKS?

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** MNUC, PARM, SF, US, (SMITH, GERARD)  
**To:** STATE  
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